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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

### REPORT

OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

**1959**



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - JUNE, 1959.

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman W. H. Greenstreet


VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Alderman L. F. Davey

His Worship the Mayor  
(Alderman E.G. Butcher, J.P.)

Councillor C. H. Barton

- " Miss L.C. Chamberlain
- " C.T. Curzon
- " D.T. Featherstone
- " D.M. Hughes
- " Mrs L.M. Maile
- " F.R. Smith
- " G.R. Smith
- " E.H. Swendell
- " R.J. Whiteman



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

H. M. Cargin, M.D., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

C. H. Weller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

F. Brown, M.A.P.H.I.

K. J. Hadler, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Resigned 31st March 1959)

D. O. Knight, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Commenced 17th May 1959)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J. S. Robertson

D. Liles

DISINFECTOR:

G.C.Riordan

RODENT OPERATOR:

V.C.Barker

PUBLIC ANALYSTS:

Messrs Hawkins and Hawkins, Canterbury.





TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

-----

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population has increased this year by 100 to a figure of 36,100.

A mild epidemic of Measles occurred in the first and second quarters of the year, and for a similar period Dysentery was mildly epidemic.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis, but one case of Meningococcal Meningitis was notified.

The usual form of commentaries and tables has been adhered to in this report.

I have again to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support. To the staff of this and other Departments of the Corporation my thanks are also due for their ready help in compiling the report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. CARGIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I - SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.  
-----

Area of Borough in acres	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of population	36,100
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate books	12,222
Rateable value	£529,164
General Rate	24/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,100

BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total 1958.</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	263	250	513	499
Illegitimate	18	28	46	40
	<hr/>			<hr/>
TOTAL	281	278	559	539
	<hr/>			<hr/>

BIRTH RATE.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.5
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	16.4
(England and Wales - 16.5)	

The illegitimate births formed 8.2% of the total and were equal to 1.2 per 1,000 of the population.

In order to meet the unequal distribution of the population according to age and sex, the Registrar General has supplied a correction factor of 1.06 and this multiplied by the uncorrected Birth Rate results in a Birth Rate of 16.4

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total 1958.</u>
Legitimate	6	4	10	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-	3

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births was 17.5 as compared with 20.7 for England and Wales.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS.  
(Neo-Natal Mortality).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total 1958.</u>
Legitimate	8	5	13	7
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.  
(Infantile Mortality).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total 1958.</u>
Legitimate	11	5	16	12
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births:

TOTAL	30.4	(Compared with 22.2 for 1958)
( Legitimate	31.1	
( Illegitimate	21.7	
England and Wales	-	22.0)



During the first month of life, the infant deaths showed an increase of 7 as compared with the number in 1958.

The deaths under one year also increased by 5. The Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) thus becomes 30.4 compared with 22.2 for 1958, and compared with 22.0 for England and Wales.

The following Table shows the number of deaths of children under one year of age from 1891 to 1959. This happy improvement, which is not confined to Ramsgate, is largely due to our better knowledge of hygiene and cleanliness in the preparation of and handling of food. For the spread of this knowledge those engaged in Child Welfare work are mainly to be thanked.

	<u>Borough of Ramsgate.</u>		<u>England and Wales.</u>
	Average annual no. of deaths under 1 yr.	Average annual Infantile Mortality Rate.	Average annual infantile mortality rate.
1891 - 1895	79	126	151
1896 - 1900	95	137	156
1901 - 1905	82	125	138
1906 - 1910	67	111	117
1911 - 1915	54	95	110
1916 - 1920	44	89	90
1921 - 1925	34	60	76
1926 - 1930	29	60	68
1931 - 1935	23	51	62
1936 - 1940	23	50	55
1941 - 1945	8	32	50
1946 - 1950	21	30	36
1951 - 1955	15	27	26
1956	14	24.6	23.8
1957	17	31.3	23.0
1958	12	22.2	22.5
1959	17	30.4	22.0

This table shows that a steady improvement continues to take place and that the infant deaths are being reduced in a most successful manner.

I N F A N T I L E      D E A T H S.  
TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH.

CAUSE.	WEEKS.				MONTHS.											
	Under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-12.	TOTAL.		
WHOOPING COUGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TUBERCULOUS DISEASES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
MEASLES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CONVULSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3		
ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
PREMATURE BIRTH	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5		
INJURY AT BIRTH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ASPHYXIA, ATELECTASIS	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		
CONGENITAL DEBILITY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
OTHER CAUSES	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4		
TOTAL	10	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17		

TOTAL DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>1958.</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages	267	226	493	526

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	13.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	11.5
England and Wales	11.6

The Death Rate shows a decrease of 1.2 per 1,000 of population compared with 1958. A correction factor has been supplied by the Registrar General. The factor for this Authority is 0.85, and this, multiplied by the uncorrected death rate, gives a corrected rate of 11.5 as compared with 12.7 for the previous year.

The births in the Borough exceeded the total deaths by 66.

During 1959 the number of deaths decreased by 33 as compared with the previous year. As usual the preponderance of deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

The Registrar General points out that the population of England and Wales has been increasing by an average of 180,000 a year since 1951. About 104 boys were born for every 100 girls, but the death rate for males was higher than that for females at all ages. At ages 0 - 4 years, there were 1053 males for every 1000 females, and at ages 30 - 34 years, the numbers were about equal. At ages 60 - 64 years, there were 770 males for every 1000 females, and at ages 75 and over, there were nearly twice as many women as men.

The following Table shows the causes of the total deaths in the Borough as given in the Registrar General's statistics:-



CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-
2. " - other	-	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	6
11. " " lung, bronchus	16	1
12. " " breast	-	7
13. " " uterus	-	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic conditions	25	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	3
17. Vascular lesions, of nervous system	15	44
18. Coronary disease, angina	53	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	2
20. Other heart disease	26	40
21. Other circulatory diseases	19	19
22. Influenza	2	1
23. Pneumonia	11	7
24. Bronchitis	24	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	6	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis, nephrosis	4	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, etc.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	3	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-
34. All other accidents	8	2
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
<hr/>		
TOTAL	267	226

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

Age group.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 1 year	12	5	17
1 - 2 years	1	-	1
2 - 3 years	2	-	2
3 - 4 years	1	-	1
4 - 5 years	-	1	1
5 - 10 years	2	-	2
10 - 15 years	1	-	1
15 - 20 years	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	1	-	1
25 - 35 years	4	1	5
35 - 45 years	7	3	10
45 - 55 years	10	7	17
55 - 65 years	46	20	66
65 - 75 years	90	60	150
Over 75 years	90	129	219
TOTAL	267	226	493

The deaths from cardiac disease were 84 in 1959 compared with 90 in 1958. The cause of this disease still appears to be in doubt.

Other heart diseases numbered 66 as against 83 in 1958. Comparing the deaths from all forms of cardiac disease, it is found that in 1959 there were 150 deaths compared with 173 in 1958.

Cancer of the stomach decreased from 21 in 1958 to 17 in 1959, but cancer of the lung and bronchus was increased by 2. The total deaths from all forms of malignant disease was 89 in 1959 as against 98 in 1958.

Three deaths were ascribed to Influenza, but it must be remembered this disease is not notifiable. Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other chest complaints numbered 60 in 1959 as against 64 in 1958.

Throughout England and Wales as a whole, the death rate from cancer of the lung and bronchus in men was 831 per 100,000 of the population in 1959 as compared with 784 in 1958. In women, the figures were 123 per 100,000 in 1959 and 119 in 1958. This appears to be a steadily increasing disease and the cause has yet to be discovered.



The deaths of males from this disease accounted for over 35% of all deaths from cancer. In women the proportion was just over 6%.

The number of deaths from all forms of cancer from the year 1948 is shown below :-

1948	-	78	1954	-	60
1949	-	84	1955	-	78
1950	-	71	1956	-	80
1951	-	88	1957	-	87
1952	-	93	1958	-	98
1953	-	76	1959	-	89

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL  
CAUSES OF DEATH.

Year.	Cancer (all forms).	Vascular lesions.	Heart diseases.	Tuber- culosis.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.
1942	33	28	74	17	20
1943	43	29	54	13	22
1944	50	44	75	16	25
1945	61	38	78	17	30
1946	59	66	122	21	42
1947	65	56	142	21	46
1948	78	54	145	16	41
1949	84	51	148	23	47
1950	71	52	143	16	44
1951	88	92	157	17	54
1952	93	77	152	10	39
1953	76	60	123	11	30
1954	60	65	135	5	35
1955	78	50	121	5	29
1956	80	59	136	2	41
1957	87	54	131	6	41
1958	98	59	173	4	57
1959	89	59	150	2	53

Percentage of total deaths in 1959.	18.0	11.9	30.4	0.4	10.7
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The Superintendent Registrar informs me that during 1959, of the total deaths of persons registered in Ramsgate, 53% were interred and 47% were cremated.

#### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Two deaths were ascribed to this disease as compared with 4 in 1958.

In England and Wales during 1959, the death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 85 per 100,000 of the population (respiratory tuberculosis accounted for 77 per 100,000). In 1957, the deaths from this disease were 11% less than for the previous year, and deaths from respiratory tuberculosis fell by 12%. Mass radiography units made a total of 3,514,000 examinations in 1957 and found 22% of the cases of respiratory tuberculosis which were notified later.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths due to childbirth in Ramsgate during 1959.

For the country as a whole, the Maternal Mortality Rate is provisionally given as 0.38 per 1,000 live births and stillbirths, as compared with 0.4 in 1958.

SECTION II.  
-----NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The greater part of Ramsgate is situated on high ground, with a chalky sub-soil, 17 miles from Canterbury and 72 miles from London.

There is a favourable sunshine rate with a low rainfall. While other parts of the country are experiencing rainy weather, this area frequently enjoys sunshine and dryness.

The prevailing winds are westerly, but when northerly or easterly winds prevail, the situation of the Borough affords considerable protection from them. The wide expanse of sands which extend on either side of the Harbour, provide walks and enjoyment for the many visitors. The harbour, with its three quarter mile of piers, is open to the public and encloses an area in the outer basin of 35 acres and 12 acres in the inner basin, provides a health giving walk with ever changing interests.

Employment in the Borough is provided by hotels, boarding houses and catering establishments, brewing, flour milling, manufacture of drugs and plastics, doll and stocking making, engineering, tool making and ship and yacht repairs.

Most of the manufactories are situated on the outskirts of the town, and as a consequence fog and atmospheric pollution are almost unknown.



## SECTION III.

M E T E O R O L O G Y.

The principal part of the Meteorological Station is situated on the East Cliff and consists of a standard fenced enclosure containing the following instruments :-

Dry Bulb Thermometer	}	Mounted in a Stevenson Screen.
Wet Bulb Thermometer		
Maximum Thermometer		
Minimum Thermometer		
Rain Gauge - 5 inch diameter.		

A Campbell-Stokes Sunshine Recorder is set up on a platform on the roof of Albion House, and a Kew pattern Barometer, graduated in Millibars, is kept in the Municipal Buildings.

Readings are taken daily at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year and coded telegrams sent to the Air Ministry at these times.

During the summer season, an Information Board is maintained in the fenced enclosure giving details of sunshine, rainfall and temperatures together with the official forecast for the south eastern region. In addition, separate boards are maintained at the main sands, bathing station, East Cliff and West Cliff, giving comparative weekly sunshine and rainfall totals for Ramsgate and other resorts.

The sunshine and rainfall figures for 1959 are as follows :-

SUNSHINE.

January	95.3 hours	Daily average	3.1 hours
February	73.2 "	"	2.6 "
March	121.6 "	"	3.9 "
April	148.7 "	"	4.9 "
May	254.5 "	"	8.2 "
June	271.7 "	"	9.0 "
July	304.6 "	"	9.8 "
August	243.8 "	"	7.9 "
September	224.1 "	"	7.5 "
October	169.4 "	"	5.4 "
November	67.8 "	"	2.2 "
December	29.6 "	"	0.9 "

TOTAL      2,004.3      "      (Total for 1958 - 1,573 hours).



	Most sunshine recorded in <u>any one day.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	Sunless <u>days.</u>
January	7.9 hours	26th, 27th.	7
February	9.7 "	28th	13
March	10.7 "	26th	2
April	10.6 "	4th, 24th	3
May	14.2 "	14th	3
June	15.5 "	13th	-
July	15.1 "	7th	1
August	13.2 "	17th	-
September	12.4 "	2nd	-
October	9.5 "	1st	1
November	7.5 "	10th	10
December	7.2 "	5th	15

RAINFALL.

		Most recorded in <u>any one day.</u>
January	1.72 inches	0.41 inches
February	0.05 "	0.03 "
March	1.24 "	0.36 "
April	1.77 "	0.31 "
May	0.40 "	0.17 "
June	1.34 "	0.73 "
July	3.09 "	1.70 "
August	2.36 "	0.85 "
September	0.25 "	0.20 "
October	2.79 "	0.95 "
November	4.98 "	1.26 "
December	4.84 "	1.27 "

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TOTAL      24.83      "      (Total for 1958 - 31.57 inches).

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Snow, hail or sleet fell on 8 days during the year.

SECTION IV.  
-----LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There has been no alteration since September 1956 when the laboratory was transferred to Preston Hall Hospital near Maidstone, under the direction of Dr. J.H.C. Walker.

Examinations of pathological specimens are also carried out at the laboratories in the Ramsgate and Margate General Hospitals by Dr. H. Sterndale.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The provision of an ambulance service is the responsibility of the Kent County Council. Four ambulances are stationed at the Health Centre and are controlled from the Divisional Headquarters at Broadstairs.

MEDICAL COMFORTS.

Medical comforts such as bath chairs, bed rests, etc. can be hired from the St. John Ambulance Corps, St. Paul's Hall, Sussex Street (Thanet 51132) for a small weekly hire charge. The depot is open daily between 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.

MORTUARY.

The Municipal Mortuary, in the grounds of the Police Station, has continued to function. The number of bodies admitted was 67, and a total of 67 post mortems was carried out.

The services of the mortuary attendants of the Ramsgate General Hospital are used on a part-time basis, and this arrangement continues to work satisfactorily.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following table gives particulars of the days and times of clinics which are provided by the Kent County Council :-



Maternity and Child Welfare.At Health Centre.

Infant Clinics      Mon. Wed. 2 - 4 p.m.  
 Ante-Natal "      -

At Broad Street.

Tues. Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.  
 2nd Wed. 2 p.m.

School Health Service.

Minor Ailments      Mon. Wed. 9.30 a.m.  
 Dental Clinics      By appointment  
 Orthopaedic Clinics      do.  
 Ophthalmic Clinics      Tues. 9 - 11 a.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

This clinic is now in its sixth year and is held at Hut C, Margate General Hospital. During the year it was found necessary to increase the sessions to one per week, i.e. on a Monday evening at 6.30 p.m.

Dr. Mary Cagney, the Medical Officer in charge of the clinic, informs me that a total of 154 new patients and 25 transferred patients attended during 1959, 49 of the total coming from Ramsgate. Since the clinic was opened, nearly 800 women have attended and obtained help and advice. The reasons given for attendance are chiefly (i) the planning of a family; (ii) health, i.e. some definite medical or surgical complaint; (iii) pre-marital advice, and (iv) sub-fertility.

Attendances at the clinic totalled 583 during 1959 as compared with 464 the previous year, and it was felt that the increase justified a weekly session.

In Ceylon it is estimated that the population will double in 30 years. The population is increasing each year at the rate of 1 million in Japan, 5 millions in India and probably 10 millions in China. If we are to prevent famine, we shall have to increase food supplies or reduce fertility.

At the annual meeting of the British Medical Association in 1959, it was stated that the world population increased by 47 millions last year; it will have doubled by the end of the century, and 1,000 years hence, if the present rate of increase is maintained, there will be one person for every square yard of the earth's surface. Food production increases by little more than 1% per annum with the prospects of a diminution in the rate of increase. Population increases by more than 1.5% per annum, with every reason to expect increases in the rate.

According to the World Health Organisation, 1,800 million people are even now insufficiently nourished and a report states that the standard of living of under developed countries cannot be raised or even maintained unless the rate of births is controlled.

### HOSPITALS.

The Secretary of the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee, Mr. John Brown, informs me that the number of beds available in the Hospitals within the Borough on 31st December 1959 was as follows :-

#### Ramsgate General Hospital.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male or Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
General Medicine	7	2	-	9
General Surgery	16	9	-	25
Ear, Nose and Throat	2	1	-	3
Orthopaedic Surgery	4	3	-	7
Gynaecology	-	12	-	12
Obstetrics	-	13	-	13
Private Wards:-				
Section 4	-	-	5	5
Section 5	-	-	4	4
<hr/>				
totals	29	40	9	78
<hr/>				

#### Haine Hospital.

Infectious Diseases	-	-	50	50
Chronic Sick	13	13	-	26
Dermatology	8	8	-	16
<hr/>				
Totals	21	21	50	92
<hr/>				

The total of 78 beds available at the Ramsgate General Hospital is a temporary reduction due to the closure of a ward for structural alterations to accommodate obstetric cases from Margate, and as from 26th February 1960, the number of obstetric beds was increased to 28, making the total bed complement to 93.

It is proposed to erect a maternity unit at Margate General Hospital to serve the whole of Thanet and when this is completed it will free the obstetric and gynaecological beds at Ramsgate General Hospital for the use of other patients, and the bed complement will then be re-allocated.



Mr. R.A.G.White, Secretary of the Ramsgate Hospital, informs me that the following patients were dealt with :-

At Ramsgate General Hospital.

		<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>
In Patients:-	Maternity	404	401
	Others	2,047	2,136
Out Patients:-	Casualty Department	7,378	6,325
	Special Departments:-		
	Medical	379	367
	Surgical	1,344	1,297
	Gynaecological	62	248
	Ophthalmic	616	574
	Paediatric	110	122
	Aural	775	737
	Rheumatism	89	99
	Ante-natal	320	335
	Post-natal	265	266
	Dermatological	354	385
	Mental illness	184	159
	Orthopaedic	1,696	1,555
	Dental	90	115
	Physical medicine	309	361
	Diseases of chest	252	159
	Radiotherapy	157	154

The number of units of work (examinations and/or treatment) performed in the Radiological and Physiotherapy Departments was :-

Radiological	17,218	16,184
Physiotherapy	25,095	27,896

Individual patient requests involving work in Pathological Department:-

8,748	8,953
-------	-------

At Haine Hospital.

Number of patients admitted during 1959 :-

Infectious cases	372
Chronic Sick	12
Dermatological	146

Smallpox.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board, cases of Smallpox may be admitted to the River Hospitals (Long Reach) Dartford. There have been no cases of this disease in Ramsgate for many years.

NURSING HOMES. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. PART IV.

The registration and supervision of Nursing Homes still remains the responsibility of the Local Authority.

At the end of the year there were two Homes on the register, providing beds for medical patients only :-

21 Vale Square and annexe	-	60 beds.
4 Clifton Lawn (Not at present in use)	-	9 beds.

The Bon Secours Nursing Home, a charitable institution with 30 beds, is exempt from registration.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.  
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

These two Acts give authority to secure necessary care and attention for persons who :-

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Application to the Court for the removal of elderly persons coming within one of the above categories was made in four cases, though one of these entered an institution voluntarily.

Five other elderly persons volunteered to be admitted to suitable institutions.

In all 27 visits were paid under the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 50.

Under the provisions of this section, one person was buried at the expense of the Local Authority at a cost of £12.



## MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Fifteen medical examinations of Corporation employees were carried out for the purposes of the superannuation scheme. In addition, enquiries were made into the prolonged illness of one other employee on behalf of the Council.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Mrs Bartlett, the District Domestic Help Organiser, has kindly provided me with the following information on Domestic and Family Help :-

### (i) Domestic Help Service.

A total of 583 patients in the Ramsgate area were provided with domestic help during the year by 50 helpers, of whom approximately one third are employed on a full-time basis.

Sixty four home confinements received daily help for a period of fourteen days in each case, seven tubercular patients, 440 aged persons and 42 other types of cases were provided with help during the year.

### (ii) Family Help Service.

This service commenced in 1955. Its purpose is to enable children to be cared for in their own homes while the mother is temporarily absent. Resident help is also provided when the father is on night work or living away from home. Seven cases were provided with this form of help in 1959.

### (iii) Evening Service.

Evening service is given for bedridden and house-bound people living alone, or living with someone who is incapable of giving them care and attention to make them comfortable for the night. Twenty three such cases were assisted.

## HOME NURSING.

There are four District Nurses in the area, all of whom are provided by the Kent County Council :-

### Telephone.

Miss E.Mean, S.R.N., S.C.M. 61 Melbourne Avenue	Thanet 52601.
Mrs Reed, S.R.N. 16 Cox's Lane	" 53454
Mrs P.Howland, S.R.N. 77 Southwood Gardens	" 51655
Mr. A.F.Ottaway, S.R.N., Q.N. 22 Princes Avenue	" 53286

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Again, this service is provided by the Kent County Council, and the Midwives employed in the Borough are as follows :-

Mrs J.J.Green, S.C.M. 139 Hereson Road.	Thanet 52974
Miss A. Doyer, S.R.N., S.C.M. The Bungalow, Haine Road.	" 89309
Mrs D.K.Harvey, S.R.N., S.C.M. 1 Princess Margaret Avenue	" 51781
Miss Jones, S.C.M., The Wilderness, Canterbury Road West.	" 51532

## SECTION V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Thanet Water Board, and there has been no change in the sources of supply. Normally this is adequate for all needs, but should the necessity arise, the supply can be augmented from other sources within the area served by the Board. During the exceptional summer in 1959, no shortage was experienced.

Samples taken show the water to be of high organic purity, this is to be expected with waters drawn from the deep chalk strata. Chemical analysis gives a high figure of total hardness.

Samples are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination; fifty samples were taken during the year and were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall Hospital, Maidstone. All were reported satisfactory. Samples are taken both before and after chlorination, that is from the pumping station at Whitehall, and from various points in the town, usually from a domestic source selected at random.

Four samples were taken for chemical analysis, and the following is a copy of the report of the analysis of a sample taken in December 1959 :-

Parts per million.

Appearance	Clear
Odour	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides	83
Chlorine calculated as Sodium Chloride	137
Nitrogen in nitrates	7.5
Free ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours	0.02
Hardness, total	322
Hardness, non-carbonate (permanent)	82
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	240
Total matter in solution	549
pH value	7.1
Microscopic examination	Some mineral fragments.



DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Borough Engineer reports that work on the construction of a by-pass sewer between Margate Road and Ellington Road commenced in September and will be completed by the autumn of 1960. The scheme, which is being carried out by direct labour and is estimated to cost £34,000, will safeguard the source of water supply in the Borough and will relieve the existing sewers in the central area of the town, which due to the natural growth and development of the district, are now quite inadequate to deal with the run-off in times of storm.

Work is also progressing on the construction of plant for the control and treatment of sewage prior to its discharge into the sea outfall, and it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed before the summer of 1960.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The disposal of all refuse continues to be dealt with at the controlled tip at Ebbsfleet, and during the year a total of 62,050 cubic yards of refuse was collected and disposed of by this means. Of this total, 55,000 cubic yards was domestic refuse, 4,000 cubic yards was trade refuse, 1,250 cubic yards was collected from public litter bins, and street sweepings and gully detritus for the remaining 1,800 cubic yards.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year there were no alterations in the system of street sweeping and cleansing, which employs the gang system with electric orderly trucks in the residential areas, and beat sweepers in the central business and seafront areas. Both methods are augmented by a mechanical road sweeping vehicle and gully emptiers equipped with street washing plant.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of the Manston and Cliffsend areas, all the houses are connected to the sewerage system. When the new sewerage system comes into force, every house in the Borough will be connected to the water carriage system.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Public Health Inspectors paid 6,433 visits. Information about their work, together with lists of notices served and the results of such notices, are included in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Public Health Inspectors are responsible for the administration of the Shops Act in its entirety. Information concerning action taken is included in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

The following table shows the number on the register at 31st December 1959:-

<u>(i) Inspections.</u>	Number of <u>premises.</u>	Number of : <u>Inspections. Written notices.</u>
-------------------------	-------------------------------	---

Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority	39	2	2
--	----	---	---

Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	170	44	1
---	-----	----	---

Other premises	42	2	-
----------------	----	---	---

TOTAL	251	48	3
-------	-----	----	---

(ii) Defects.

	No. of cases in which defects were:				
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	Pros- ecutions

Want of cleanliness	-	2	-	2	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	1	-	1	-

Eighty eight outworkers were registered, 26 of them being engaged in the making of wearing apparel and 62 in making cardboard or paper receptacles for fireworks.



MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of sites for caravans or tents and the accommodation available is as follows :-

Nethercourt Farm Road	61
Pegwell Lodge	70
Cliffsend, Foads Lane	50
Cliffsend, Sportsman	8
Manston, Preston Farm Road	25
College Road	18

Planning approval has been given for an additional site in Preston Farm Road, opposite the existing site. This will provide accommodation for 55 caravans when ready, and the site in College Road has been increased from 5 to 18 caravans.

Tents are not encouraged on any of these sites, these being reserved for bona fide trailer caravans. Accommodation is also available at Nethercourt Park, where two acres can be used to site 42 caravans or an equivalent number of tents, further accommodation can be made available at the west wide of King George VI Memorial Park. Indeed this latter accommodation became so popular during the summer that it has been decided to make more permanent arrangements for sanitary and ablution accommodation.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

There is very little smoke producing industry in the town. Steam raising plants are largely oil fired, and those that do use solid fuel give very little trouble. Any atmospheric pollution there is, is largely confined to domestic smoke, and with our fortunate situation, dilution and dispersal is so great that pollution is infinitesimal.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Marina Swimming Pool is the only one open to the public. This is an open-air pool, 250 feet by 90 feet, holding 860,000 gallons. The pool is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season, and 'topping up' water is added as necessary. Cleanliness and purity is maintained by continuous filtration and chlorination.

Chlorine is added at something over 1 part per million, colorimetric tests at the inlet gave a reading of 1.8 parts per million, this indicating an addition of approximately 2 parts per million. There are sixteen inlets into the bath, thus incoming freshly chlorinated water is well dispersed, and colorimetric tests taken at the furthest points from the inlets gave readings of from 0.1 to 0.2 parts



parts per million. This is rather below the recommended standard of 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million, but samples taken for bacteriological examination were all satisfactory. pH value was maintained at 8.4 throughout the season.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Six Marine stores are registered under the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1907, and of these only two, both dealing in rags and bones, are registered as offensive trades under the Public Health Act 1936.

#### FISH FRYERS.

Twenty one fish fryers are registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Periodic inspection was carried out and a high standard was maintained.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

Five licences were granted to keep Pet Shops under the provisions of this Act.

## SECTION VI.

H O U S I N G.CLEARANCE AREAS.

Three Clearance Areas declared during 1958 were brought forward for completion in 1959. With the Plains of Waterloo Area, comprising 16 houses, it was decided to proceed by way of Compulsory Purchase Order and the area was extended to include certain other property, that is Nos. 22 and 38/40, whilst Nos. 43, 45, 47, consisting of shop property, were acquired by private negotiation, the sites being required for the better development of the Newcastle Hill Area. After a Public Inquiry, No. 22 was deleted from the Order, and No. 29 was declared to be a 'fit' house but included as 'grey' property. Negotiations for purchase were still proceeding at the end of the year, and the houses had not been demolished. The Alma Place area was confirmed without modification, there being no objectors. The tenants have been re-housed and the houses demolished.

Objections to the Cavendish Place Area were withdrawn at the eleventh hour, and the Order was confirmed without modification towards the end of the year.

A further Clearance Area, Montefiore Cottages, comprising 22 houses, was declared during the year and after a Public Inquiry the Order was confirmed without modification on 12th January 1960.

Demolition Orders have been made in respect of 12 houses during the year, and Closing Orders in respect of 4 houses where demolition was impracticable, and with one case an undertaking to use the cottage as a store for agricultural materials was accepted. Two parts of buildings, living accommodation over shops, and five unfit basements have been closed.

One Demolition Order was revoked, the owner having carried out the necessary works to make the house fit.

The following table conforms with information supplied in quarterly returns to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and shows the number of unfit houses dealt with during the year :-

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED.

<u>In Clearance Areas.</u>	<u>Houses demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u> <u>Persons. Families.</u>	
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	6	5	3
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-	-	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Sect. 43(2) Housing Act 1957.	-	-	-

Not in Clearance Areas.

(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17(1) Housing Act 1957.	11	34	14
---	----	----	----

B. UNFIT HOUSES.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u> <u>Persons. Families.</u>	
(v) Under Sects. 16(4) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957	2	-	-
(vi) Under Sects. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	1	-	-
(vii) Parts of buildings closed under Sect. 18 Housing Act	5	-	-

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES  
IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

	<u>By owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	74	-
(ix) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	1	1
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	-	2
(x) Under Sect. 24 Housing Act 1957	3	-



HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

A total of 309 applications were received during 1959. At the end of the year there were 773 on the housing register.

ALLOCATION OF ACCOMMODATION.

The number of families and persons accommodated by the Housing Committee during the year, including transfers of tenancies, was as follows :-

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Families.</u>	<u>Persons.</u>
Council houses	134	134	577
Pre-fab bungalows	16	17	35
Flats	58	58	131
Old Persons Bungalows	2	2	3
	<hr/>		
	210	211	746
	<hr/>		

The number of properties controlled by the Council at the end of the year was :-

Pre-war schemes	583
Post-war schemes :-	
Traditional houses	864
Pre-fab bungalows	199
Traditional flats	266
Houses purchased by Council	46
Old persons bungalows	31
Corporation properties	43
	<hr/>
	2,032
	<hr/>

RENT ACT, 1957.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair have diminished almost to vanishing point. Nine applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received, bringing the total to 127. Four Certificates were granted, the owners giving Undertakings on Form K on the remaining five. Four Certificates of Disrepair have been cancelled during the year.

## SECTION VII.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

STATISTICS.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in age groups, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases :-

Disease.	Deaths	Admitted to hospital.	0-1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-25.	25-45.	45-65.	65. Over	TOTAL
Poliomyelitis:														
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	19	-	1	2	1	2	19	1	-	-	-	-	26
Whooping Cough	-	-	6	4	5	10	4	14	-	-	1	-	-	44
Measles	-	-	14	50	72	79	120	131	70	3	4	-	-	543
Dysentery	-	26	1	4	7	6	1	31	15	3	26	-	-	94
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	16
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	3	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1



DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of this disease have been notified in the Borough for the past 12 years, and this is largely due to immunisation against the complaint. Every child should have this protection carried out before its first birthday and further protective doses given every five years up to the age of 15 or 16. Neglect of these precautions even on a moderate scale might readily re-awaken the disease amongst the unprotected children. The Ministry of Health estimate that at least 75% of all children born each year should be immunised if this infection is to remain dormant.

Of the total children in the Borough aged 15 years and under, 6,829 have been immunised, but the percentage of children born in 1958 and immunised remains too low, as only 52.8% of these have been protected.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Only 44 cases were notified during the year. Immunisation against the disease was begun in 1957 by the County Authority and I am informed that 426 children received protection during the year.

MEASLES.

543 cases were notified, the majority occurring in the early part of the year. There were no deaths.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

Many years have elapsed since a case of this disease occurred in Ramsgate. It is prevented by vaccination and when a case does occur, its spread is prevented or localised by vaccination and supervision of all contacts.

A total of 425 persons were vaccinated in Ramsgate during 1959. Some of these were persons going abroad who had to be vaccinated to conform with the regulations. In addition, 49 were re-vaccinated.

ASSISTANCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX.

A panel of doctors is available to visit suspected cases of the disease and to assist in the diagnosis.

Further help by bacteriological methods is also available. Pus, blood serum or the scabs or crusts taken from the pustules or spots and sent to Colindale Laboratories, will be diagnosed within 2 to 72 hours depending on the quality and quantity of the specimens sent.



INFLUENZA.

There was little of this disease until mid January 1959. From this time there was a rapid and progressive increase in the number of cases and also in the number of deaths, which reached a maximum at the end of February. From mid-March the deaths declined steadily but slowly to a non-epidemic level by the third week of April.

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

No cases were notified in Ramsgate during 1959.

A report from the Ministry of Health discloses that until 1947 this disease was sporadic, not epidemic, in England and Wales, but in that year it abruptly assumed epidemic proportions and 7,000 cases were notified. In the following year, a smaller epidemic took place. In the years 1949 and 1950, a larger outbreak again occurred. Latterly there has been a tendency for years of high incidence to alternate with years of low incidence. Males are more frequently affected than females, but the latter show paralysis more frequently than the males. In both sexes, paralysis is high in the first years of life and thereafter it decreases considerably.

The Ministry of Health also reports that there was a dramatic drop in the deaths from this disease in 1959. The death rate fell from 147 in 1958 to 86 in 1959. How much of this improvement is due to the use of anti-poliomyelitis vaccine it is impossible to say, but the improvement coincided with the use of the vaccine, and by the end of the year more than 9 million children up to the age of 16 years had received two or more injections.

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the Borough who received injections during the year :-

<u>Year of birth.</u>	Number given:	
	<u>Two injections.</u>	<u>Three injections.</u>
1959	76	-
1958	315	144
1957	150	250
1956	102	228
1955	79	241
1954	96	243
1953	91	301
1952	121	303
1951	107	288
1950	95	284
1949	122	296
1948	116	352
1947	135	386

Year of birth.Number given:  
Two injections. Three injections

1946	120	442
1945	117	353
1944	110	343
1943	109	240
Before 1943	1,516	775
Others	254	177
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,831	5,646
	<hr/>	<hr/>

By the end of March 1960, nearly 13,200,000 in Great Britain had received two injections against this disease and 9,400,000 of them had the course of three injections. The extension of vaccination to cover all persons under 40 years of age had so far met with little response.

FOOD POISONING.

An outbreak of food poisoning, involving 16 cases, occurred in June. Investigations were carried out and samples of food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The food causing the outbreak was found to be a meat dish which had been contaminated by organisms of the Staphylococcal group, but it was not possible to ascertain the cause of the contamination.

No further cases occurred in the same household.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty six cases were notified, 19 of which were removed to the Haine Hospital.

SONNE DYSENTERY.

A total of 94 cases of this disease was notified during 1959. These cases occurred in the early part of the year and the disease was not confined to any particular locality of the town, nor was it confined to any special age group. The epidemic ceased and only a few sporadic cases occurred by the end of May.



TUBERCULOSIS.

Formal notifications in respect of 25 respiratory and one non-respiratory cases were received. In addition 16 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources :-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-respiratory.</u>
Transferred from other areas	14	-
Restored to register	2	-

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths according to age groups :-

Age group.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-resp.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-resp.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

The number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December 1959, was :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory	136	133	269
Non-respiratory	17	15	32
	<u>153</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>301</u>



The deaths of Ramsgate residents from Tuberculosis are shown in ten year periods since 1900:-

	Average number of <u>deaths per annum.</u>
1900 - 1910	47
1910 - 1920	39
1921 - 1930	34
1931 - 1940	24
1941 - 1950	17
Average for past 9 years	4

This improvement, gradual in the early years referred to above, but more rapid latterly, appears to be due to three factors:-

- (a) Modern drugs
- (b) Advances in surgical methods
- (c) Protection conferred by B.C.G. Vaccination.

If neglected this can be a serious and deadly disease, but if handled properly it is no longer a sentence of death for the patient. It is estimated that there are more than a quarter of a million suffering from this disease in Great Britain.

In Ramsgate, 169 cases of respiratory Tuberculosis were on the register at the end of 1959, beside 32 cases suffering from non-respiratory Tuberculosis. These figures show an increase of 10 cases. The names of 10 patients were removed from the register as having recovered from the disease and 18 who had removed to other areas.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health gives the following figures showing the fall in notifications of Tuberculosis :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of cases.</u>
1953	44,000
1954	42,000
1955	35,000
1956	34,000
1957	32,000
1958	29,000
1959	27,000

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Service carried out a survey in Ramsgate from 20th April - 14th May 1959. Three points were allocated for the general public and school children to attend, i.e. (i) Leopold Street Car Park; (ii) Warre Recreation Ground; (iii) Hereson Senior School, Lillian Road.

The following shows the numbers who attended together with the findings of the survey :-

General Public.

Males	1956	
Females	2778	Total 4734

Schools.

Pupils - Males	1834	
Females	1246	Total 3080

Staff - Males	20	
Females	30	Total 50

GRAND TOTAL		<u>7864</u>
-------------	--	-------------

Of this total, 3833 attended for the first time (47.5%).

The result of the survey showed that 8 (3 males, 5 females) were suffering from active tuberculosis, and 42 (20 males, 22 females) were suffering from inactive tuberculosis. In addition, one male was discovered to have cancer of the lung.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

Dr. R.H.Andrews, Physician in charge of the Chest Clinic informs me that during the year 17 sessions were held at which B.C.G. vaccination was carried out. A total of 131 persons attended, 62 contacts of tuberculosis and 69 others.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

A special clinic for the treatment of these diseases is held at Margate General Hospital. The days and times of the clinics are :-

Friday:	Females	10 a.m - 11 a.m.
	Males	11 a.m. - 12 noon.

A total of 45 patients from Ramsgate attended as compared with 44 the previous year.



SECTION VIII.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

I am indebted to the Public Health Inspectors for the following information :-

MILK.

All milk sold by retail for human consumption is sold under one or other of the special designations. Milk is being pasteurised by the H.T.S.T. method and one plant only has been in operation throughout the year.

(a) Licences.

Registrations made under the Milk and Dairies Regulations are as follows :-

Dairies	1
Dairymen	1
Distributors	143

The number of Dealers' Licences, i.e. licences issued to dairies and distributors to retail designated milk, and renewable annually, are as follows :-

To retail pasteurised milk	121
" tuberculin tested milk	62
" sterilised milk	106

(b) Examination and testing.

A total 73 samples of designated milks were taken for examination and testing :-

Designation.

	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>T.T.Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
No. of samples	58	7	8
Satisfactory by -			
Methylene Blue test	58	7	-
Phosphatase test	58	7	-
Turbidity test	-	-	8

There is no raw tuberculin tested milk sold in the area.

The Methylene Blue test is a colour reduction test used to indicate the cleanliness and keeping quality of the milk. The Phosphatase test is used to check the efficiency of the pasteurising process. Phosphatase is a natural enzyme in milk which is reduced by heat treatment. Samples are checked by colorimetric methods and where the reading falls below 2.3 blue units, it is known that pasteurisation has been effective.

It should be noted that all samples taken during the year satisfied both these tests, and the samples of sterilised milk also satisfied the turbidity test, this indicating that the milk had been properly sterilised.

Samples are taken indiscriminately from roundsmen, distributors and dairies in order to keep a check on the milk at all stages in the chain of distribution. Fifteen of these samples were taken from schools, in these cases the Education Authority is notified of the results. In all, 160 visits have been paid to dairies and distributors premises, excluding those visits made for the sole purpose of taking samples.

#### (c) Adulteration.

Fifty two samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, these were 41 samples of pasteurised milk, 1 sample of pasteurised milk from a vending machine, 5 samples of Channel Island milk, 2 samples of tuberculin tested milk, 2 samples taken at the point of delivery before treatment, and 1 sample of hot milk. The hot milk, having been heated by steam injection, showed an excess of water, the vendor was warned against this practice which is no longer carried out.

One milk vending machine was installed as an experiment. This shows signs of becoming popular and it is possible that more will be introduced.

#### (d) Quality of milk.

There has been some slight fall in the average fat content of milk this year, this is offset by an increase in non-fatty solids, which has made the total of all solids slightly higher than the previous year. With the exception of the hot milk referred to above, none of the samples taken have fallen below the prescribed standard.

	<u>Average composition.</u>			
	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Fats	3.71	3.79	3.85	3.71
Non-fatty solids	8.78	8.69	8.91	8.62
Total	12.49	12.48	12.76	12.33



ICE CREAM.(a) Cleanliness.

Thirty nine samples of ice cream were taken for bio-chemical examination and subjected to the Methylene Blue test with results as follows :-

Grade I	29
Grade II	3
Grade III	4
Grade IV	3

Two of the samples falling within Grades III and IV were of local production, the plant concerned was examined and the fault rectified. The remaining Grades III and IV samples were produced outside the Borough, but it was found that in two cases the fault was in distribution. This was cleared up after consultation with the manufacturers.

Testing and grading in this manner was introduced as a provisional measure in 1949 following reports of a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Circular 8/59 issued by the Ministry of Health in April 1959, makes it clear that this is to continue as a provisional measure. I quote "The Minister recommends that Local Authorities should continue to look to the Methylene Blue test for a provisional measurement of the bacterial cleanliness of ice cream. The test affords a simple and valuable means for the routine grading of this product and has proved useful in indicating where further investigation is called for into the practices of manufacturers, distributors and retailers".

I quote further "and the fact that samples fail to reach Grade I or II by the Methylene Blue reduction test does not in itself provide sufficient grounds for regarding the ice cream as unfit for sale for human consumption".

The test consists of the addition of the colour Methylene Blue to the sample under laboratory control, this re-agent becomes decolourised in the presence of bacteria, and the grading is assessed by the speed of decolourisation. The test is not selective in that it does not indicate the type of organism concerned. The recommended grades are as follows :-

Grade I	-	Methylene Blue <u>not</u> decolourised	in 4 hours.
Grade II	-	do. decolourised	in $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours.
Grade III	-	do. decolourised	in $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours.
Grade IV	-	do. decolourised	in 0 hours.



The majority of samples from any one producer should fall within Grades I or II, and repeated results at Grades III and IV levels suggest some faulty practice in the course of production or distribution.

### Standard.

Six samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. These were found to comply with the standards prescribed by the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations 1959.

The greater part of the ice cream sold is pre-packed, indeed the sale of loose ice cream from shops where a mixed trade is carried on is not encouraged, and the vendors prefer it so. Some ice cream is sold from bulk, particularly in the ice cream parlours, and there is a flourishing trade in 'soft' ice cream which is dispensed directly from the freezer.

### FOOD PREMISES.

#### (a) Restaurants.

The number of restaurants and cafes is 95, and there are also 53 snack bars. Hotels providing meals for residents and non-residents number 22.

117 visits were made and the campaign to improve the structural and hygienic standard of these premises was continued.

#### (b) Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were 23 bakehouses on the register. None of these were underground bakehouses. Twenty one visits were made to them.

#### (c) Preserved Foods.

Fifty four premises are registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, to prepare various types of preserved foods, these are as follows :-

Preparation of sausages,	
cooked and pickled meats	34
Preparation of cooked	
meats only	6
Bacon smoking, ham curing	1
Fish curing and smoking	2
Cooking and preparation of shellfish	2
Manufacture of pickles	2
Manufacture of sugar confectionery	7

All of these were periodically inspected and found to be satisfactory.

(d) Fish Frying.

Twenty one premises are registered.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

There is now no slaughtering carried on in the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

A total of 7 tons 12 cwts 21 lbs. of unsound meat and various tinned goods etc. was surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. ADULTERATION.

One hundred and eleven samples (55 formal and 56 informal) were taken by the Public Health Inspectors and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst :-

<u>Description.</u>		<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>
*	Milk	48	1
*	Channel island milk	4	-
	Hot milk	1	-
*	Chocolate drink	-	1
*	Blackcurrant drink	-	2
	Olive oil	-	1
	Corned beef	-	2
	Tea	-	3
*	Mock salmon cutlets	-	1
*	Pork pasty	-	1
*	Jam	-	1
*	Buttered cheese	-	1
	Zinc ointment	-	1
*	Self raising flour	-	1
*	Cockles	-	1
*	Confectionery	-	9
	Castor oil	-	1
	Chicken fillets	-	2
	Scottish cream bannocks	-	1
*	Rock	-	1
	Cereal	-	1
	Ice cream	-	6
*	Gelatine	-	1
*	Hamburger	-	1
*	Hot dog	-	1
	Bread	-	1
	Mineral waters	-	2
	Condensed milk	-	1
*	Mussels	-	1



<u>Description.</u>		<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>
*	Chicken in jelly	-	2
*	Sausage	1	-
*	Corn flour	-	1
	Rissoles	-	1
*	Sponge	-	1
*	Dried fruit	-	1
	Cream	-	2
*	Pease pudding	-	1
	Cream horns	1	-
*	Vinegar	-	1

The samples marked \* in the preceding table were examined for the presence of preservatives.

#### SHELLFISH.

Frequent visits have been made to the premises used for the preparation of shellfish and to the stalls where they are sold. Stalls in the Pier Yard consist of covered barrows which are taken away at the close of each day. Stall holders have the use of washing facilities which consists of sink and was basin with hot and cold water in a small washroom nearby.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles gathered in that area unless and until they have been sterilised by steam under pressure for six minutes. Cockles are not being collected there for sale and no contraventions have been observed. All cockles sold in the district are brought in from other areas under guarantee of sterilisation. Mussels and whelks are usually collected locally and are cooked on the vendors own premises, but during the holiday season it is often necessary to augment local supplies by importation from other areas.



PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1959.  
-----Amount of shipping entering the Port.

Ships from:	Number.	Tonnage.	No. inspected by:		No. reported as having had during voyage infectious disease on board.
			MOH.	P.H.I.	
Foreign ports	714	69471	-	13	-
Coastwise	997	4500	-	-	-
Total	1711	73971	-	13	-

Character of shipping and trade.

## Passenger traffic:

No. of passengers inwards 37,264

No. of passengers outwards 37,279

## Cargo traffic:

Principal imports - Cars, Timber.

Principal ports from which ships arrive.

Passenger vessels, Yachts - Calais, Boulogne, Ostend.

Cargo vessels - Cars from Bremerhaven.  
Timber from Baltic ports.Water supply.

All water supply is obtained from the town mains.

The results of samples taken during 1959 are reported in  
Part V.Precautions against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes  
are taken. Hoses used for supplying shipping are stored in a closed  
barrow and are flushed before use.

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.(i) List of infected areas.

Close liaison is maintained between H.M. Customs and the Public Health Department, and information would be given should the Customs Officer have reason to believe that a ship was arriving from a foreign port named in the weekly list of infected areas.

(ii) Mooring Stations.

Proposals submitted to H.M. Customs and Harbour Authorities in 1935 are still in force, and are as follows :-

- (a) Mooring station within docks - The place of mooring or loading, the ship being shored off the quay and so moored as to prevent contact with any other ship.
- (b) Mooring station outside docks - The outer middle ground buoy in the outer basin of the harbour in bad weather. In good weather, the Ramsgate Roads.

(iii) Arrangements for -(a) Hospital Accommodation.

Cases of infectious disease, other than smallpox, would be accommodated at Haine Hospital under the control of the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee. No infectious case has occurred on a ship entering the port.

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.

Contacts proceeding out of the area would be advised to report to the Medical Officer of Health of the district of their destination, and confirmation would be sent by this Department.

Local contacts would be dealt with by this Department.

(c) Cleansing and Disinfection etc.

The services of the Disinfection Staff of this Department would be available, and all clothing etc. would be dealt with at the Disinfecting Station.



Smallpox.

Cases would be sent to the Rivers Hospital, Dartford, by special ambulance provided by the Kent County Ambulance Service. The services of a consultant are available and laboratory diagnosis would be undertaken by the Central Public Health Laboratories, Colindale, N.W.9.

Venereal Diseases.

No international arrangements are in operation.

Special clinics are held at Margate General Hospital as follows :-

Fridays:	Females	10 - 11 a.m.
	Males	11 a.m. - 12 noon.

Measures against Rodents.

All ships from foreign ports are normally inspected by the Public Health Inspector. The services of the Rodent Operator are available if required.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1935 and 1948.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations have been in operation since December, 1925, and are referred to in Section VIII.

Miscellaneous.

There are no arrangements in operation for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease. Should such an eventuality arise, all arrangements would be carried out by the Local Authority under the personal supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH (AIRCRAFT) REGULATIONS, 1952.

No action was found necessary under these Regulations, which deal with all matters of health in the case of passengers or crew arriving from abroad or from infected areas.



• ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.  
-----

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1959. The report is mainly statistical, and I have taken the opportunity of making explanatory comment where occasion demands.

There has been a change in staff during the year, Mr. K. Hadler left on 31st March to take up a similar appointment at Hastings and he was succeeded by Mr. D.O.Knight, who commenced duty on 17th May.

It will be seen that there is continuing progress on the slum clearance programme, it is a halting progress but nonetheless in the right direction.

I appreciate the support given by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and express my thanks to the inspectorial and clerical staff for their loyal and willing co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. WELLER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

Work has proceeded on the slum clearance programme. Two new areas have been represented during the year, these are as follows :-

Montefiore Cottages area	22 houses
Turner Street area	7 houses.

A Public Inquiry was held in respect of the Montefiore Cottages area and this Order was confirmed without modification on 12th January 1960. No decision had been reached on the Turner Street area at the end of the year.

Regarding the outstanding areas from 1958, it was decided to make a Compulsory Purchase Order on the Plains of Waterloo area. This was confirmed after a Public Inquiry with the modification that No. 22 should be deleted and that No. 29 should be regarded as 'fit' property.

No objection was raised to the Alma Place and Cavendish Place areas, and these Orders were confirmed without modification.

Fourteen houses have been dealt with as individual unfit houses, viz: 8 demolition orders, 5 closing orders and with one an undertaking to use the house as a store for agricultural materials was accepted.

Closing Orders have been made on two parts of buildings, each consisting of living accommodation over a shop and Closing Orders have been made on 3 basement dwellings. Three other basements were represented but action was not completed at the end of the year.

One Closing Order has been determined where restoration work has been carried out and the house made fit, and one demolition order revoked where the owner has taken advantage of Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957, and carried out necessary works to make the house fit.

RENT ACT, 1957.

As was anticipated, applications for Certificates of Disrepair have fallen to negligible proportions, there being only 9 new applications during the year.



Although it is realised that some tenants are reluctant to complain because of fear of reprisals, there is evidence that on the whole tenants do not consider rents charged to be unreasonable. Since the Rent Act came into force, 127 applications have been made, seven have been refused, and decisions to issue a certificate were made in respect of 120 of these applications. 60 Certificates of Disrepair have been issued, the balance being made up by Undertakings given by landlords and accepted by the Council.

Nine certificates have been cancelled, thus 51 remain in force. One is curious about these uncanceled certificates. Are landlords prepared to forego the increase in rent rather than carry out repairs, or is the increase being demanded even though the certificate of disrepair is still in force?

A summary of the applications received during the year is as follows :-

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	9
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
Number of decisions to issue certificates :-	
(a) in respect of some defects only	1
(b) in respect of all defects	8
Number of Undertakings given by landlords	6
Number of certificates issued	4

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications for improvement grants are made to the Borough Engineer. In order to avoid the possibility of grants being given in unsuitable cases, such as where the property falls within the Council's slum clearance programme, a report is called for from this Department, thus there is full co-operation between the Departments.

Improvements qualifying for the Statutory Grant are worthy of consideration, conditions are not so stringent as with the Discretionary Grant, and there is an inducement to provide modern amenities to houses which hitherto have been without them, i.e. hot water supply, bath, wash basin, indoor W.C. in certain circumstances, and food storage. Indeed the majority of applications now being made are for this type of grant, and 47 applications for standard grants have been approved during the year, while 35 discretionary grants have been approved during the same period.



FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Regular and frequent inspections of food premises are carried out in an endeavour to maintain the high standard of hygiene in food handling that we expect in this area where catering for the visitor is a major industry. One prosecution has been taken during the year, this being in respect of a general grocery shop and the summons was taken on five counts, all infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The defendant was found guilty and fined £2 on each count, making a total of £10 in all. Since then the business has closed down.

PROSECUTIONS.

Two prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act have been taken during the year.

1. Bacon found to be fly blown on purchase.

Examination of the bacon showed patches of eggs and a small number of live maggots. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £10.

2. Metal bolt in doughnut.

On examination a metal bolt half an inch long and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " in diameter was found to be embedded in the doughnut and appeared to have been baked in it. The bolt was subsequently identified as being from the machinery in the bakery concerned and the defendants pleaded guilty. A fine of £10 was imposed.

Certain other offences, seven in all, were reported to the Health Committee, and upon considering all the facts of the various cases, it was decided that warnings should be given.

SHELLFISH.

The shellfish stalls in the Pier Yard continue to operate as hitherto. Four of these mobile stalls are stationed in the Pier Yard with a fifth on Military Road. No one could consider these mobile stalls to be satisfactory for the handling and distribution of open food, but they have been established over a period of many years, and old customs die hard.

The stalls are kept under observation and every effort is made to maintain as high a standard as is possible in the circumstances. Perhaps one day we shall have purposely made kiosks properly equipped for the trade.

Whelks and mussels are gathered locally, some are brought in from layings in other areas to augment local supplies, and some mussels are imported from overseas. The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations prohibit the collection of cockles in the bay for sale for human consumption unless they are subjected to steam sterilisation for a period of six minutes. There is no sterilisation plant within the Borough and all cockles are imported from other areas.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

There is very little smoke producing industry in the area, and consequently very little trouble from industrial smoke. The majority of vessels using the harbour are oil fired. Coal burning tugs come in for repair, and they usually keep their smoke within the permitted limits. The situation of the town is such that atmospheric pollution from domestic sources is negligible, and complaints of nuisance from soot blowing have been much less during the year.

#### CAMPING SITES.

There are no residential sites within the Borough; six licensed sites are restricted to the holiday season and these cater for caravans only. On five of these sites some caravans remain throughout the year but are not occupied during the winter months, a limited number of spaces are kept for the itinerant caravaner who stays for short periods only. Accommodation for both tents and caravans has been arranged in the grounds of Nethercourt House, and a further space is reserved in King George VI Memorial Park during the peak period. These two sites are owned by the Corporation, and have been taken into use to prevent roadside camping during the holiday period; it has now become obvious that these sites will have to be established on a permanent basis, thus sanitary accommodation has already been provided at Nethercourt and similar facilities are to be made available at King George VI Memorial Park in readiness for the next season.

#### SHOPS ACT.

Six hundred and seventy visits were paid to shops during the year. These visits were concerned with hours of closing, Sunday trading and the health and comfort of shop workers.



Of necessity a greater proportion of the visits are made outside normal office hours and it has been found that during the off season, shop keepers do tend to ignore the restrictions on closing and Sunday trading. It is probable that this form of contravention is accentuated because of the seasonal concessions, whereby all shops are allowed to keep open until 10 p.m. and Sunday trading is permitted to a greater extent. There has, however, been a marked decline in the number of contraventions found. Verbal warnings have been given and it would appear that as a result of these warnings, the offenders are making a better attempt to keep within the law.

#### CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS.

The places of amusement for public music and/or dancing in the Borough number 91, and may be classified as follows :-

Cinemas	4
Theatres	3
Halls	11
Hotels, Public Houses	60
Restaurants	7
Miscellaneous	6

Nine visits of inspection were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

#### COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 698. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona-fide complainant can be sure of receiving prompt and sympathetic consideration.

#### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

A general observation is kept upon shops for purposes concerned with the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Shops Act, and at the same time the marking of produce in conformity with the Merchandise Marks Act is noted. Shopkeepers do mark their produce, indeed it would appear that they use the country of origin as a selling point.



NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	149
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	116
Work carried out voluntarily	82
Statutory notices served	10
Statutory notices complied with	5

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

A tabulated list of inspections and visits is  
given hereunder :-

## Public Health Act:

Inspections	324
Re-inspections	377
Repairs	11

## Housing Act:

Inspections	169
Re-inspections	434
Improvement Grants	80
Work in progress	31
Overcrowding	3
Houses measured	10
Council houses	20

## Rent Act:

Inspections	59
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## Food and Drugs Act:

Bakehouses	21
Ice cream premises	109
Fish Fryers	18
Restaurants	117
Shellfish	26
Other food premises	575
Shops re unsound food	340

## Milk and Dairies Regulations:

Dairies	10
Distributors	150

## Sampling:

Food and Drugs	146
Designated milk	103
Ice cream	59
Water	55
Swimming Pool	41

## Factories Act:

Factories - mechanical	44
" - non-mechanical	2
Workplaces	2

## Shops Act:

Visits	670
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## Pet Animals Act:

Visits	5
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## Rodent Control:

Business premises	4
Dwellinghouses	17
Local Authority property	1

## Shipping:

Visits	13
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## Other inspections:

Cesspools	6
Drainage	423
Drains tested	38
Accumulations	76
Keeping of animals	16
Refuse receptacles	249
Public conveniences	25
Smoke abatement	40
Caravans and camping sites	32
Places of public entertainment	6

Infectious disease	172
Music and dancing	9
Licensed premises	6
Schools	26
Merchandise Marks Act	7
Verminous premises	168
Interviews	579
Miscellaneous visits	509

### IMPROVEMENTS AS RESULT OF INSPECTIONS.

#### Drainage system:

Drains cleared	61
Drains amended	17
Sink gully traps provided	3
Inspection chambers built	9
Soil and vent pipes fitted	5
Soil and vent pipes repaired	1
Intercepting traps fixed	1
Houses re-drained	2

#### Internal Repairs:

W.C. cisterns provided	10
W.C. cisterns repaired	12
Sash cords renewed	12
Windows repaired or renewed	7
Sinks trapped	7
Sinks provided	8
Lavatory basins provided	10
Fireplaces renewed	9
W.C. pans fixed	28
W.C. seats renewed	16
Plaster repaired	21
Water service provided	4
Water service improved	10
Waste pipes repaired	6
Fireplaces etc. repaired	3
Floors repaired	16
Doors repaired	9
Baths provided	2



## External repairs:

Eaves gutters renewed	5
Eaves gutters repaired	6
Walls re-pointed	2
Roofs repaired	18
Yards paved	6
Walls treated with damp-proof material	1
Minor items of repair	2

## Shops:

Wash basins provided	2
Premises renovated	6
Hot water provided	5
Miscellaneous	5

## Cafes and Restaurants:

Sinks provided	2
Water heaters installed	3
Miscellaneous	4

## Bakehouses:

Premises cleansed	2
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## Factories, Workplaces:

Cleansed or limewashed	2
Miscellaneous	1

## Miscellaneous:

Accumulations removed	19
Verminous houses cleansed	34
Refuse receptacles provided	84
Cesspools abolished	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Investigations are made into all cases of notifiable disease, and contacts followed up. This matter is dealt with more fully by the Medical Officer of Health in Section VII. In all 172 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

DISINFECTION.

Two hundred and thirty four rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and cancer, and 65 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfectors.

PEST CONTROL.

It is customary to call for the help of the Health Department when insect infestations are concerned, and we are confident that our methods are usually effective. Methods vary according to the nature of the infestation and the property involved. Liquid insecticides are used as a spray, powders being used where it is considered that these would be more suitable. D.D.T. and Gamma B.H.C. are being re-inforced by other additives, as there is evidence that some insects are building up a resistance to the residual effect of both these chemicals. The wide range of insecticidal preparations in aerosol form now on retail sale is noted. These aerosols are very convenient for the householders own use as they are always ready for use.

The following table shows the number of premises treated, together with the type of infestation :-

	Council property:		Other property:	
	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Rooms.</u>	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Rooms.</u>
Bugs	-	-	9	36
Fleas	4	15	33	164
Flies, Beetles, insects etc.	22	45	37	83

In addition, 114 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Five sets of bedding believed to be infested or soiled after death were removed for treatment. In addition 40 lots were destroyed at the request of owners.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

This Act deals with the powers and duties of Local Authorities for the destruction of rats and mice.

One full-time operator is employed to deal with complaints of rodent infestations, and treatments are carried out in all classes of property. A charge is made for the treatment of business premises, but private dwellinghouses are treated free of charge.

Investigation into complaints is thorough and embraces surrounding properties; this policy has paid dividends in that the rodent population is definitely kept under control. There are few agricultural holdings in the area, most occupiers are fully alive to the necessity of controlling rodent infestations, and carry out their own treatments usually with Warfarin. These properties are surveyed from time to time to ensure that treatments are being carried out properly. The controlled tip on Sandwich Road is kept under observation and any sign of rat infestation is dealt with immediately.

Sewer treatments with Warfarin has proved an outstanding success, the results give real cause for optimism though it is doubtful if the sewers will ever be completely clear of rats. Sewer treatments are being kept up at six monthly intervals and it is only by regular treatment that the rat population can be kept within manageable proportions.



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